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United States Department of the Interior, J. A. Krug, Secretary
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FISHERY LEAFLET 338

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Washington 25, D. C. April 1949

FISHERY REGULATIONS OF VENEZUELA INCLUDING A SECTION ON IMPORT DUTIES FOR PRODUCTS CONNECTED WITH THE FISHING INDUSTRY

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PREFACE

The following translation of the fishery laws of Venezuela has been prepared for the information of persons interested in the regulations which govern operations of foreign and national fishing enterprises in that country. These laws were in effect in 1948; it is doubtful if other than minor changes will be made during 1949.

General Requirements for
Commercial Fishing in the Territorial
Waters of Venezuela

1. Register the vessel under the Venezuelan flag.
2. Carry a Venezuelan flag captain.
3. Obtain a fishing license from the Seccion de Pesqueras, Ministerio de Agricultura y Cria, Caracas.
4. Land the catch at a Venezuelan port.

With respect to item No. 1, it should be borne in mind that the catch of foreign vessels, if landed at a Venezuelan port, is subject to an import duty of 1.50 Bolivares per Kilo, approximately 20 cents per pound U. S. currency. Since the fishermen rarely receive more, usually less, than 1.50 Bolivares per Kilo, the import duty generally makes it impossible for foreign vessels to compete with National flag vessels. In addition there may be delay in clearing the catch of foreign vessels through customs.

No. 02297

United States of Venezuela

Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

FISHERIES LAWS

[Official Gazette of the United States of Venezuela, No. 21,529 of October 8, 1944. Published 7 February, 1945, Administrative Directive No. 98, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.]

Title I: General Coverage.

Article 1.

The fishery for fish, crustaceans, mollusks, chelonidae (turtles) and amphibious reptiles (alligators, etc.), sponges and other species of marine, river and lake animals, as well as the harvesting of eggs of turtles and amphibious reptiles, are subject to the terms of this law, of its ordinances, and of such resolutions as may be promulgated for its proper accomplishment, whatever pertains to the possession and use of the waters and lands where they occur, and without prejudice to the fulfillment of that which is directed by other national laws.

Special paragraph:

Pearl fisheries are not included as they are regulated by a special law.1/

Article 2.

The present law applies to fisheries carried out by Venezuelan flag vessels operating in territorial waters, whether or not the fishery products are landed at a Venezuelan port.

Article 3.

The Federal Executive has the authority, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, to establish fishery zones and regulations for harvesting the species referred to in the article above.

Article 4.

The Government of the States, the Federal District, the Federal Territories, and Municipalities, where fisheries possibilities exist, should be disposed to assist in developing and exploiting the fisheries in cooperation with the Office of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, and collaborate with representatives of the special branches concerned, for the efficient operation of this law.

Article 5.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry shall stimulate an increase in fisheries, favoring the interests of fishermen through the

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1/ See later section of this leaflet "Pearl oyster fishery regulations)

organization of bank credits for fisheries, of sport fishing clubs, and by whatever other means it can devise for development.

Article 6.

Sub-surface scientific explorations in the water, regardless of their purpose, may not be carried out without previous permission from the Ministry of Agriculture, and interested parties will be held responsible for unnecessary damage to aquatic fauna.

Article 7.

In carrying out sub-surface explosive work in the water, those interested must strive for harmless methods, and obtain authorization from the War, Navy and Agriculture Department.

Article 8.

Construction of waterways (canals, etc.) and other hydraulic works must be done in such a manner as not to endanger aquatic animals, and dams and dikes in general shall be so constructed as to permit the passage of fish by means of fish ladder with a maximum inclination of not over 45 degrees.

Article 9.

The Federal Executive is authorized to create an honorary National Fisheries Advisory Commission, consisting of a fisheries technician from the Ministry of Agriculture, a seaman from the Ministry of War and Navy, two fishermen and one representative of industry.

Article 10.

The Ministry of Agriculture should give attention to the development and increase of fish hatcheries, at the same time watching over the conservation of the species, and avoiding anything which might menace survival.

Article 11.

The fisheries law should be administered without interfering with other economic activities such as navigation, transportation, services, and utilization of stimulated waters by means of concessions.

Article 12.

For scientific purposes, there should be given to the Fisheries Service of the Ministry of Agriculture an example of each species which should be properly preserved.

Title II: Licenses

Article 13.

A license must be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture for commercial, scientific or sport fishing.

Article 14.

A special license from the Ministry of Agriculture is required for:

a. sponge fishing
b. fishing or capture of caimans (alligators)
c. fishing or capture of freshwater turtles
d. Taking the eggs of turtles or alligators
e. Fishing on Government hatchery property
f. Fishing in places declared by the Ministry of Agriculture to be reserved zones

Fishing for home consumption requires no license, nor for sport fishing in salt water or in lakes directly connected with the ocean.

The fishery in places not subject to restrictions under letters e and f of this article, for edible animals other than fresh-water turtles, requires a license from the Ministry of Agriculture when for commercial purposes and for persons who work for the account of others, or for vessels which carry a normal crew of more than three persons.

Licenses show the length of time valid, zone for which issued, and such other information as the Department of Agriculture deems necessary.

Article 15.

Vessels exclusively for fishing and requiring more than three in the crew, must be register dwith the Ministry of Agriculture nd use such identification as the Ministry prescribes.

Article 16.

Fishery authorities may not restrict the free movement of vessels within the zone for which they have received a license, and they may arrive freely at all hours of the day or night.

Article 17.

In regions where there are so many fishermen that their operations interfere with each other, the Ministry of Agriculture will establish turns, and create schools of opportunity for fishermen.

Article 18.

For the manufacture of fertilizers, meals and oils, there may be used, in addition to fish waste, only such species as the Ministry of Agriculture approves. 2/

Article 19.

Anyone engaging in fishing or processing aquatic fauna must submit to the Ministry of Agriculture such reports on operations as the Ministry requests.

Title III

Article 20.

The Federal Executive may, by means of resolutions promulgated through the Ministry of Agriculture:

a. Fix closed seasons and establish limitations and restrictions of the fisheries for taking or capture, by species, and by zones or places.

b. Prohibit fishery for animals whose numbers have been depleted.

c. Prohibit certain methods of fishing and types of gear.

d. To set up closed areas for natural or artificial breeding grounds, for migration of species, for culture and improvements which merit special protection, as well as the location of refuges as seems appropriate.

- - -

2/ No species have been so designated to April 1949.

e. Take such other measures in regard to the aquatic fauna as may be necessary for conservation and protection.

Article 21.

Specimens below minimum legal size, or whose capture is forbidden, must be immediately returned to the water.

Article 22.

It is prohibited to fish with dynamite, gun-powder, or other explosive, carbide, lime, sulphur, acids, barbasco (rotenone) and any other chemical or natural elements which could injure the aquatic fauna.

Article 23.

It is prohibited to take any of the above named elements aboard a fishing vessel, or for fishermen to possess them while fishing, even if not in a boat.

Article 24.

It is prohibited to dump into the ocean, rivers, creeks, lakes, lagoons, and brooks, or in those reserve zones set up under this law, any petroleum, oils, ashes and whatever industrial residues or wastes which have been found harmful to aquatic fauna, or prejudicial to fishing activity.

It is similarly prohibited to throw or deposit said elements in places from which they might naturally flow into the above named waters.

Special paragraph:

With regard to leakages of petroleum or oil originating from vessels which ply the territorial waters of the Republic, and in the case of use as insecticides, or larvicides, the Law of Vigilance will govern to prevent contamination of waters by petroleum, and the Law of Anti-Miasma in the case of larvicides.

Article 25.

It is prohibited:

a. To frighten away fish by beating the water, throwing in

various objects or by making sounds.

b. To disturb water bottoms , dry out completely, or in part, any stream beds, destroy aquatic vegetation and natural formations where fish spawn, except in special cases authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture or by authority of the Law of Anti-Miasma.

c. The introduction, without previous permission of the Ministry of Agriculture, of any kind of animal, foreign or domestic, of adults, juveniles, eggs or embryos, whose natural habitat is aquatic..

d. To catch greater quantities than can be eaten, utilized, or sold.

Title IV

Inspection

Article 26.

The Ministry of Agriculture, through its field agents, will exercise the utmost vigilance over the activities governed by this law. The agents should make daily visits to prisoners; board vessels; inspect stores of fish, sponges and other fishery products whether taken or purchased; inspect fishery establishments and places of business, commerce, or industry, for the purpose of seeing that the orders of this law, its regulations and resolutions are complied with.

Title V

Penalties, Fines.

Article 27.

Infraction of any of the directives of this law, or of the orders or resolutions provided for its complete execution, will be penalized by fines ranging from 50 to 10,000 Bolivares ($16-$3,000) which will be imposed by the field agents according to the major or minor gravity of the infraction, the magnitude of the damage caused, and the aggravating or extenuating circumstances attending each case.

Article 28.

Appeal from fines imposed under this law may be made to the Ministry of Agriculture, which will follow completely the procedure set up in the

Organic Law of the National Treasury.

TITLE VI

Article 29.

The Federal Executive, in carrying out the present law, will establish sanitary standards for the fisheries, including capture, harvesting, transportation, storage and sale of the species and its exportation.

Article 30.

The fisheries law of 14 September, 1936, is hereby abolished.

Fishing -- Island of Margarita
(Arestinga and Los Marites)

Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Division of Livestock;
Resolution No. 20,
17 January 1942

For the protection and development of fishing areas of the lagoons called "La Arestinga" and "Los Marites," situated on the Island of Margarita, State of Nueva Esparta, methods of fishing are subject to the following regulations:

1st. In the interior of the lagoons, fishing is permitted only:
(a) With hooks number 0 (zero) to 7 inclusive.
(b) With cast nets of mesh size known as "liseras" or 4 centimeters square (1.57 inches) after wetting.
(c) Gill nets of mesh size no less than 10 centimeters square (2.5 ins.) when wet/
(d) With traps having dimensions provided in Resolution No. 21, of this same date.

2nd. Totally and permanently closed is a zone adjacent to the lagoons, extending for a mile (1,825 meters) to the West, by a mile from North to South, in accordance with visible markers established by this office.

Specifications for Traps

Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Division of Livestock, Resolution No. 21: 17 January 1942

To safeguard edible species, the fishery with traps is subject to the following regulations:

It is prohibited to use traps whose mesh opening between two main sides is less than 5 centimeters (1 7/8 in,) in width.

A period of nine months will be allowed from the date of publication of this order for adapting fishing gear to the above measurements.

Resolution No. 19 dated 20 June 1941 is hereby rescinded.

Spiny Lobster (Palinurus argus)

Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Division of Economic Agriculture, Section of Fisheries, Resolution No. 63, Caracas, June 1, 1948.

Article 1. Fishing for spiny lobster (langosta) is prohibited during the spawning season, June 15 to August 31.

A period of five (5) days after June 15 is allowed for disposing of spiny lobsters caught prior to the closing date, after which the transportation and sale of the species is strictly forbidden until the end of the closed season, August 31.

Article 2. The capture, transportation and sale of spiny lobsters measuring less than 8 centimeters (3 5/32") from the bridge between the eyes to the end of the caranace along the back, is prohibited at all times. Individuals measuring less than 8 cm. must be returned alive immediately to the water from which taken.

Article 3. Likewise, it is prohibited to fish for, transport and sell any spiny lobsters bearing eggs, regardless of the season of the year, and such individual must be returned alive immediately to the water from which they are taken.

Article 4. It is prohibited to fish for spiny lobsters by means of electric lanterns or any other type of light projector.

Article 5. The provisions of this regulation apply to fishermen, transporters, and dealers.

Article 6. Violators of the provisions of this resolution may be punished by fines of from 50 to 10,000 Bolivares ($16 to $3,000), and by seizure of the spiny lobsters which, by reason of length or egg-bearing, have been taken contrary to the regulations set up by this resolution. Also forfeited will be the fishing implements used in capture.

Article 7. Resolution No. 62, promulgated June 18, 1947, is hereby revoked.

Turtles, Orinoco River

Division of Economic Agriculture, Fisheries Section, Resolution No. 4, Caracas January 28, 1946

For the purpose of subjecting the exploitation of river turtles of the Pararuma Islands, Playa Blanca, and Cabullarito, Orinoco River, State of Bolivar, to a regulation which will assure the free utilization of this resource for the local fishermen, as well as for the protection of the species, the fishery for or capture of turtles on the afore-mentioned islands are governed by the following special conditions:

1st. The fishery for, or capture of, the above-mentioned turtles are free of any fees, and the only requirement for exploitation is a free permit which will be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry through an agent at its office on the Island of Pararuma.

2nd. Permits will only be granted to those persons who, in the judgment of the above-named official, can give assurance of proper utilization of the turtles captured.

3rd. The season of exploitation of the turtles of the famous islands will extend from February 20 to April 1 of each year, but both dates may be made earlier or later, depending on the arrival or departure of the turtles at the nesting beaches.

Any modification of the season will be left to the judgment of the Fisheries Section, and ample notification will be made to fishermen concerned through the Fisheries Inspector at Pararuma.

4th. During the course of the present season of 1946, a total of 800 turtles may be taken per day, to be divided among the licensed fishermen as provided in Article 2. This quantity of turtles may be increased or decreased in succeeding years if the conservation

of the species makes it advisable. 3/

5th. All of the activities of capturing the turtles will be under the supervision of a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture.

6th. If, during the open season, the representative of the Ministry notices a serious decrease in number of turtles on the beaches, he may stop the capture to protect the conservation of the species.

7th. Absolutely prohibited is the exploitation of turtle eggs or the newly hatched turtles.

8th. The waste products of the turtles, such as caramaces, plastrons, heads, legs and other parts, should be burned on remote parts of the beaches.

9th. It will be the duty of the official named by this office to see that the directives of this resolution are complied with.

TROUT FISHING

Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Office of Economic Agriculture, Fisheries Section, Resolution No. 1, Caracas, 17 January 1947.

For the purpose of regulating the fishery for species of trout represented by the varieties rainbow and brook (Salmo shasta and Salvelinus fontinalis), to assure their propagation and protection:

Article 1. Fishing for trout is prohibited during the spawning season, from November 1 to the last day of February.

Article 2. A special permit, non-transferable, is required for trout fishing, which permit may be issued free of charge by Fisheries Inspectors and Directors of Fish Hatcheries in the zones where trout occur.

Article 3. Trout may be taken only for sport fishing or home consumption. They may not enter into commerce, and buying or selling is prohibited.

3/ 1000 per day for 37 days, 1949.

Article 4. It is prohibited to fish for trout measuring less than 20 centimeters (7 7/8") from the tip of the snout to the base of the caudal fin. All specimens captured under the above length must be returned alive to the water from which they were taken.

Article 5. No more than 15 fish may be taken by one person per day. A party of 3 or more persons may take not over 45 fish per day.

Article 6. A fishing day extends from 5 a.m. to 7. p.m.

Article 7. Fishing may be done only by means of a line, with or without a pole (cane), using natural or artificial bait.

Article 8. It is strictly prohibited to use seines, cast-nets, traps or woven articles, regardless of form or material, for taking trout.

Article 9. It is strictly prohibited to enter rivers, lagoons or other bodies of water for the purpose either of catching them directly, or by stirring up the water, or by using apparatus of any nature other than permitted by this Resolution.

Article 10. It is prohibited to drain lakes, shift the course of streams, or dry up any section of the same for the purpose of catching trout.

Article 11. Violators of these regulations will be punished by the officials named in article 2, as provided in the Fisheries Law.

LAW OF THE PEARL FISHERY

Decree of the Congress of the United States of Venezuela. Published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Administrative Division, Caracas, 7 February 1945, Resolution No. 99.

TITLE I

Article 1. The Pearl fisheries are considered in the double character of a nati nal industry and a source of revenue, and will be under the control and administration of the Federal Executive.

Article 2. The Federal Executive may undertake, having arrived at a decision previously in the Council of Ministers, the exploitation of the oyster beds, when in his judgment it will be in the interest of the Treasury and the conservation and development of the pearl fisheries.

Article 3. The Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry shall make investigations and studies for the increase of oyster beds and to establish methods of exploitation which will prevent either depletion or extinction.

TITLE II

Article 4. The Ministry of Agriculture, by means of special resolutions, shall establish the limits of the pearl fishing zones, 4/ within which it shall be strictly prohibited to carry on any activity foreign to the pearl fishery, which is prosecuted by means of dredges, scafhanders and skin diving, except in special cases expressly authorized by the above-mentioned Department.

Article 5. The Federal Executive shall declare an open season for pearl fishing, by means of a Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture, to be published at least 60 days prior to the opening date, the season to extend from January 1 to April 30.

Article 6. In order to foresee the effect of the above article, the Ministry of Agriculture shall arrange for a timely completion of the technical studies of the situation.

A zone shall be considered suitable for exploitation when a sample of 1,000 kilograms (2,204 lbs.) of oysters yield more than one gram of pearls for each 50 kilograms (110 lbs.). 5/

Article 7. When in the course of the season, the Administrator or the attorneys of the Pearl Fisheries find evidence that one or more pearling grounds should be closed, he will immediately inform the Ministry of Agriculture which will obtain an expert opinion. If this confirms the bad conditions of the oyster bed or beds, whether due to excessive exploitation or natural phenomena, the above-mentioned Department, by means of an informative resolution, will suspend, partially or totally, such exploitation for as long as the conditon exists.

Article 8. Pearl fishing may be carried on by means of skin diving, dredges and scafhanders. The Ministry of Agriculture shall have the authority to limit, when it believes necessary, the number of diving apparatus employed during each open season, or to prohibit its use temporarily. For this limitation, the Ministry shall take into account the topography of the pearl beds and their extent and richness.

4/ See MAC Resolutions No. 115, 5 October 1944, and No. 124, 31 October 1944, p. 29.

5/ A minimum pearl production of 90 carats or 360 grains per short ton of live oysters.

Article 9. Promoters desiring to license scamhunders must be registered in the Branch of Administration 6/ within 40 days following the date of publication 7/ of the Resolution establishing an open season and giving their names, and the number of contrivances they intend to use, under the penalty of losing their right to it, if they have not registered within the time limit. Registration of dredges and skin divers may be done also during the open season, but the Federal Executive may limit the number of dredges whose registration will be permitted to each promoter. The Ministry of Agriculture will endeavor to reconcile the interests of the various classes of applicants.

Article 10. Fishermen shall be obligated to:

1. Bring alive to shore, those mollusks, which are completely developed, without taking anything therefrom for themselves.
2. To return to the sea immediately the mollusks which are found not to be completly developed, commonly called "shells in flower." 8/
3. To fill out accurately the forms for obtaining statistical data, which are attached to the license, proceeding in accordance with instructions given in them.

TITLE III

Article 11. To engage in the industry a license is required which will be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture through the Administrator of the Pearl Fishery.

Article 12. To obtain a license, the applicant shall direct a request to the Administrator of the Pearl Fishery, giving his name, surname or business name, and address; the system of fishing to be used; the kind, name, tonnage, and dimensions of the vessel; number of the registration certificate, and the date and issuing office; name and business name of the vessel owner, the financial backer or captain. The application must show the forfeiture, cancellation, and other provisions of the registration certificate. 9/

Translator's Note: There follows a section dealing with the duties of the Administrator of the Pearl Fishery in handling applications.

6/ Subsequent to 1948 application is made to the Seccion de Pesca, Ministry to the Seccion de Pesca, Ministry of Agriculture, Caracas.
7/ In the "Gaceta Oficial de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela."
8/ The text (copy No. 02756) appears to be incomplete.
9/ The text phrase is "caracter devoluto."

Article 13. The licenses expire on the last day of each month and may be renewed on payment of the proper fees for a complete month. The licenses contain the following data:

a. Name and business name of licenses
b. Serial number
c. Month for which good
d. Boundaries of the area allowed for pearling.

Article 14. Translator's Note: Contains instructions for the guidance of the Administrator in keeping license records.

Article 15. When a license has expired the licensee shall return it to the Administrator of the Pearl Fishery.

Article 16. The Federal Executive through the Ministry of Agriculture shall set the value of the licenses for each open season by means of a Resolution published in the "Gaceta Oficial de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela," at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the open season.

Special Paragraph: The value of a license for each "unit" may not exceed 1,000 Bolivares for scaphanders, 100 Bolivares for dredges, and 30 Bolivares for skin divers. With regard to the latter, it is understood that a "unit" is a group of up to 6 divers.

Article 17. The working crew of each vessel [illegible] scaphanders or dredges shall consist of not less than the following:

For pearling with scaphanders: a master, and for each scaphander employed a head diver, diver's apprentice, line tender and 4 seamen.

For dredging: a master, and one seaman for the vessel, and one seaman for each dredge.

Dredges measuring more than 1.0 x 0.50 meters (approx. 39 x 31 inches), are prohibited.

TITLE II

Article 18. Every person wishing to transfer pearls from the fishing zone to another part of the country should present them to the Administrator of the Pearl Fishery so that he can verify the lot and make a record of the weight of each of the commercial types, dividing the pearls according to

quality, total weight and value. Having complied with these requirements, the Administrator will issue quickly and freely to the applicant a certificate, without which the authorities will not permit shipment.

Article 19. Custom officials will demand from exporters of pearls, a certificate of the Ministry of Agriculture or officials of the Pearl Fishery which certifies the legitimate origin of the species.

Article 20. All dealers, one month before the opening of the season, and one month after the closing, should present the pearls, or certificates of their existence, to the Administrator of the Pearl Fishery so that this official can verify and record the weight and quality of all pearls retained.

Article 21. Trade in artificial or cultured pearls is declared illegal. The sale, as natural pearls, of cultivated or artificial pearls in any form whatever, shall be subject to the disposition of the Penal Code.

TITLE V

Articles 22, 23, and 24. Translator's Note: These deal with administration, personnel, and functions of various officers of the Pearl Fishery.

TITLE VI

Article 25. In the accounting office of the Ministry of Agriculture the activities of this branch shall be recorded under the heading of "Pearl Fishery."

Article 26. The Ministry will compile the following data:

a. Number of oyster beds and their geographical location.
b. Extent of the oyster beds.
c. Depth of water over the beds.
d. Quantity and quality of pearls produced.
e. Amount of pearls exported.
f. Work done to make new beds and develop existing ones.
g. Methods adopted to prevent illegal fishing.
h. Other characteristics of the industry in the country.

TITLE VII

Article 27. The Ministry of Agriculture shall determine what places are suitable for the establishment of oyster beds, based on technical studies.

Article 28. Those engaged in the industry shall contribute to the formation of new oyster beds, placing at the disposal of the Government up to 25% of the shells taken. In case the owner, without a satisfactory explanation, fails to use the remaining shells within a year following the close of the season, the Government may dispose of them for the creation and development of oyster beds.

Article 29. The Administrator and the attorneys should be present at the time of planting and prepare a report of the activity for the Ministry, setting forth the location of the place, and the quantity of shells planted.

TITLE VIII

Article 30. The granting of permits for exploration is left to the judgment of the Ministry of Agriculture, which, if they grant the same, shall take precautions to prevent known areas from being entered and exploited on the pretext of exploration.

Article 31. In the permits for exploration, the Ministry of Agriculture may authorize the licensee to exploit the oyster beds which he discovers, but only temporarily, and in terms which do not establish rights, but only a reasonable compensation for the cost of the exploratory work.

Article 32. In no case will a permit be given to explore in areas already exploited, or in those in which the Ministry of Agriculture has certain knowledge of the existence of pearls.

TITLE IX

Article 33. To engage in fishing by means of a scaphander, each diver must have a diploma issued by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Special Paragraph. While waiting for the diploma, the diver may be protected by a provisional certificate granted by the Commission mentioned in the article below.

Article 34. The Ministry of Agriculture shall name a commission composed of the Administrator of the Pearl Fishery, an attorney and three experts, which shall exercise the following functions:

1. Prepare a list of qualified divers as of the date of this law.
2. Examine persons desiring to use the scaphander.

3. Issue without charge to each registered diver a provisional certificate of aptitude which shows nationality, name and title, age, marital state, home address, and length of experience as a diver.

Paragraph 1. For admission to an examination, and registration as a diver, the applicant shall present a medical certificate in which it shall be clearly set forth that the applicant meets the physical requirements for diving without any danger to his health.

Paragraph 2. The certificate of aptitude along with the medical certificate, will be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, which if it concurs, will grant the appropriate diploma.

Article 35. Every person engaged in fishing with scaphanders is under the obligation of allowing, on each vessel, one apprentice diver selected by him, or designated by the Commission mentioned above, such apprentice to be at least 17 years old and provided with the proper medical certificate of physical fitness for the diving profession.

Article 36. The master diver is under the obligation to pass on to the apprentice the necessary knowledge of diving, and to train him in the practical work respecting it.

Article 37. When the aspirant has concluded his apprenticeship, he will present himself before the Commission as provided in Article 34, for an examination of general knowledge with practical proof of descent in the ocean, and if approved, will receive a provisional certificate authorizing him to practice the profession in conformity with the present law. After three months of satisfactory practice, he will receive the diploma.

Article 38. Within the 15 days following the establishment of the number and type of apparatus to be licensed, as treated in Article 8, the divers using scaphanders must obtain a renewal of their health certificate by having a new medical examination. The lack of this certificate is sufficient grounds for not issuing the license.

Article 39. The master diver will be responsible for accidents which, through his carelessness, happen to the apprentice in his charge.

TITLE X

Article 40. The following illegal acts will be punished by:

a. Fishing for pearls without the necessary license, fishing outside the season, and fishing at any time in areas not opened for exploitation: by fines of from 1,000 to 5,000 Bolivares (dollars $330 - $1,6000), and loss of gear and pearls.

b. Not returning to the sea the mollusks in "flower" (fully developed) ; the opening of mollusks and taking of pearls aboard a vessel, and not supplying completely the data required by this law: a fine of from 100 to 500 Bolivares ($33 - $165).

c. Transporting pearls in violation of provisions of this law: by fines of from 1,000 - 20,000 Bolivares ($333-$6,660) according to the gravity of the crime.

d. Keeping the license more than 5 days after expiration: fine of 100 Bolivares ($33).

Article 41. Accomplices of whatever kind of violation of this law will be punished individually by a fine equal to one half of that imposed on the author of the violation.

Article 42. Violation of Article 21 (commerce in artificial or cultured pearls) will be punished by a fine of from 2,000 to 20,000 Bolivares ($660-$6,660) and loss of the merchandise.

Article 43. Anyone concealing a fraud or profiting by it will be punished according to the provisions of the penal code.

Article 44. Repetition will be punished as the Penal Code provides, and by exclusion from the fishery during two seasons.

Article 45. Violations not specifically assigned to other authorities for disposition will be dealt with by the Administrator of the Pearl Fishery for appropriate action, or to summons of the attorneys, as the case may be.

Article 46. From the penalties imposed in conformity with this law, an appeal may be made before the Minister of Agriculture, following in every respect, the proceedings set up in the organic law of the Internal Revenue.

Article 47. Any other violations of the directives of this law or of its regulations will be punished by a fine of 20 to 2,000 Bolivares ($6.50 -$660).

TITLE XI

Article 48. Every maritime authority, customs agent and police, subject to the Federal Executive, is obligated to watch over the carrying out of this law, and to give effective and decisive support to the Administrator or other officials of this service, when asked to do so.

Article 49. The law of 22 July 1935 is rescinded.

Ministry of Agriculture

Resolution No. 115, Caracas, Oct. 5, 1944.

Resolved:

By direction of the President of the Republic, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, Law of the Pearl Fishery, the limits of the pearl fishing zones are outlined as follows:

All that part within the meridians 63 degrees 40 minutes 00 seconds, and 64 degrees 30 minutes 00 seconds West Longitude, bounded on the North by the parallel 11 degrees, 15 minutes 00 seconds North latitude, and on the South by the mainland.

Resolution No. 124, Caracas, 31 October 1944.

By direction of the President of the Republic, in conformity with the decree of Articles 5 and 6 of the Law of the Pearl Fishery, and in accordance with the findings of explorations and practical technical studies, the exploitable zone is considered to be in an area between 63 degrees 40 minutes 00 seconds and 64 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West longitude, bounded on the North by a line corresponding to 11 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds North Latitude and on the South by the mainland, or it would be, the field of oyster beds situated East of a straight line which, from the North passes over the top of the hill of San Juan, to Punta Carenero on the Island of Margarita and to the west of Coche Island to the mainland,

and in consequence, there is declared open solely in the described zone, a pearl fishing season which will begin January 1, 1945, and close April 30 of the same year.

VENEZUELAN IMPORT DUTIES
Fish, Fishery Products, Industrial Supplies.

Class	Bolivares per Kilo 1/	Dollars per lb.	Class	Bolivares per Kilo 1/	Dollars per lb.
1	0.05	0.0068	6	2.00	0.272
2	0.10	0.0136	7	5.00	0.68
3	0.20	0.0272	8	10.00	1.36
4	0.50	0.068	9	20.00	2.72
5	1.00	0.136	10	50.00	6.80

1/ Rate per Kilo (2.2 lb) exchange rate: 1 Bolivar is valued at $0.29%.

Fish Products, dried, salted, preserved in salt, or smoked.

		Class	
A.	Herrings	5	+20%
B.	Codfish	5	+20%
C.	Sardines	3	+40%
D.	Unspecified	5	+20%

Fish Products except above:
(Includes canned products)

		Class	
A.	Herrings	5	+20%
B.	Tunny	5	+20%
C.	Cod	5	+20%
D.	Salmon	5	+20%
E.	Sardines in unspecified form	3	+40%
F.	Shellfish	6	
G.	Caviar	8	
H.	Unspecified	5	+20%

Fish Flour (Meal) 1 +9%

Fish Hooks 1

	Class	
Fish Nets	3	
Fishing Lines (Animal Bristle) (Does not include cotton or linen)	5	+20%
Whale Bone	7	-20%

Tortoise Shell

	Class
A. Unmanufactured	9
B. Manufactured in combs	8
C. Manufactured in unspecified form.	10

Mother of Pearl	Class
A. Unmanufactured	5
B. Manufactured	7

Shells

A. Unmanufactured	7	-20%
B. Manufactured	7	-20%
C. Ground oyster shells	3	

Corals

A. Unmanufactured	7	-20%
B. Manufactured	7	

Sponges	6	
Vegetable Bristel	4	-20%
Agar-agar	5	+20%

Cork

A. Unmanufactured	4	-20%
B. Manufactured	6	
C. Fragments bonded for insulation	1	

	Class	
Boats	1	-50%
Motors	1	-98%
Anchors, grapnels, rigging chains		-90%

Fibres, unmanufactured

	Class	
A. Manila	1	+60%
B. Unspecified	2	+60%

Fibres, manufactured

Rope	4	+30%

Exempt
Marine life saving equipment and diving apparatus.

Prohibited or reserved to Government
Marine salt, rock salt, natural or false pearls.

Prepared in the Office of Foreign Activities, Fish and Wildlife Service, by Robert O. Smith, February, 1949.

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